

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 25, lines 11-18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The memory device 45 reads the programs corresponding to the service management service 11 and the service offer services 31-1 to 31-n from the auxiliary memory device at the time of starting the license management server 10, and ~~stored~~ stores the programs therein. The operation processing device 46 performs a process in accordance with the programs read and stored by the memory device 45.

Please replace the paragraph at page 30, line 15 to page 31, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

It should be noted that, in the example 1, the session management section 71 or a counting section contained in the session management section 71 performs a counting associated with the service use license 15. More specifically, in the example 1, when the service use license issued by the authentication section 73 is acquired, a value indicating a status of use of the service use license 15 is incremented. Additionally, for example, the value indicating a ~~statue~~ status of use of the service use license 15 is decremented when an effective period of a session between the service use service 21 and the service management service 11 expires.

Please replace the paragraph at page 34, lines 7-13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

As explained with reference to FIG. 3, when the service use service 21 uses a service which the service offer services 31 offer, the service use service 21 first sends to the

service management service 11 a start request (hereinafter referred to as a first session start request) of a session with the service management service 11.

Please replace the paragraph at page 37, lines 18-22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The first session management table 18 shown in FIG. 15 is a table which relates the first session ID 16 to the first session object 17. The first session management table 18 is included, ~~[[fro]]~~ for example, in the session management section 71.

Please replace the paragraph at page 38, line 19 to page 39, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Following step S51, the routine proceeds to S52 where the session management section 71 determines whether or not the service use license 15 has been acquired from the authentication section 73. If the session management section 71 determines that the service use license has been acquired from the authentication section 73 (YES in step S52), the routine proceeds to step S53. On the other hand, if the authentication information is not right, if it is determined that the service use license has not been received (NO in step S52), it is determined that the authentication information is ~~[[no]]~~ not correct, and the routine is ended.

Please replace the paragraph at page 43, line 25 to page 44, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Following step S70, the routine proceeds to step S71 where the session management section 71 ~~determined~~ determines whether or not the first session ID 16 contained in the license ID acquisition request acquired in step S70 is effective. If it determined that the session ID is effective (YES in step S71), the routine proceeds to step S72. On the other

hand, if it is determined that the session ID is not effective (NO in step S71) the process is ended.

Please replace the paragraph at page 51, lines 4-9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In step S93, the session management section produces the second session object 36 as ~~shown~~ shown in FIG. 25. Following step S93, the routine proceeds to step S94 where the session management section 81 adds the license ID 25 acquired in step S90 to the second session object 36 produced in step S93.

Please replace the paragraph at page 57, line 25 to page 58, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In step S120, the session management section 81 receives an ~~accumulates~~ accumulated document acquisition request as shown in FIG. 30 containing the second session ID 35 from the service use service 21.

Please replace the paragraph at page 62, line 5 to page 63, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

According to the first embodiment of the present invention explained with reference to FIG. 11 through FIG. 33, ~~the session~~ the session management section 71 of the service management service 11 increments the value indicating the status of use of the service use license 15 when acquiring the service use license 15 from the authentication section 73 after receiving from the service use service 21 the start request of the session with the service use service 21. Therefore, after that, even if the service use service 21 establishes sessions with a plurality of service offer services 31 and sends acquisition requests of services, and, thus,

each of the service offer services 31 requests acquisition of the service use license 15 to the service management service 11 and the service management service 11 sends the service use license to each of the service offer services 31, the same service use license 15 is commonly used thereby preventing the value indicating the status of use of the service use license 15 from being incremented. Therefore, the service use license 15 can be prevented from being consumed unnecessarily.

Please replace the paragraph at page 66, lines 6-17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Following step S154, the routine proceeds to step S155 where the session management section 71 adds the first session object 17, to which the service use license 15 is added in step S154, to the first session management table 18 shown in FIG. 15. Following step S155, the routine proceeds to step ~~[[S 156]]~~ S156 where the session management section 71 produces the first session start response containing the first session ID 16 as shown in FIG. 13. Following step S156, the routine proceeds to step S157 where the session management section 71 sends the first session start response produced in step S156 to the service use service 21.

Please replace the paragraph at page 75, lines 3-13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In step S190, the service use license management section 72 ~~determined~~ determines whether or not an acquisition request of the service use license 15 has been received from the service offer service 31. If it is determined by the service use license management section 72 that the acquisition request of the service use license 15 has been received (YES in step S190), the routine proceeds to step S191. On the other hand, if it is ~~determines~~ determined

that the acquisition request of the service use license 15 has not been received (NO in step S190), the process of step S190 is repeated.

Please replace the paragraph at page 77, lines 9-21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

According to the second embodiment of the present invention explained with reference to FIG. 34 through FIG. 39, the service management service 11 ~~merely~~ merely increments the value indicating the status of use of the service use license 15 only for a time period during which the service use license 15 is provided to the service offer service 31 based on the request from the service offer service 31. Accordingly, the value of the status of use of the service use license 15 can be prevented from being incremented during a session between the service use service 21 and the service offer service 31. Therefore, the service use license 15 is prevented from being consumed unnecessarily.

Please replace the paragraph at page 79, lines 4-7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

As shown in FIG> 42, the service 82 can exist and be operable outside the service offer service 31. In the example shown in FIG. 42, the service 82 exists in a service management server.

Please replace the paragraph at page 81, line 18 to page 82, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In step S200, the service offer service 31 receives the accumulated document acquisition request shown in FIG. 47, which was sent from the service use service 21. Following step S200, the routine proceeds to step S201 where the service offer service 31

sends to the service management service 11 an acquisition request of a session corresponding to the first session ID 16 contained in the received ~~accumulates~~ accumulated document acquisition request.

Please replace the paragraph at page 82, lines 2-16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Following step S201, the routine proceeds to step S202 where the service management service 11 authenticates the first session ID 16 contained in the acquisition request of the session sent from the service offer service 31. If it is determined that the first effective session ID ~~[[16is]]~~ 16 is effective, the service management service 11 acquires a session corresponding to the first session ID 16, and sends the above-mentioned result of determination and the session to service offer service 31. The service offer service 31, which acquired the session from the service management service 11, acquires the accumulated document designated in the accumulated document acquisition request received in step S200 from the document accumulation service 82 by using the session.

Please replace the paragraph at page 83, lines 11-15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A description will be given below, with reference to FIG. 48, of an example of the accumulated document acquisition process in the seventh embodiment. FIG. 48 is a flowchart of an example of the accumulated document acquisition process in the seventh embodiment.

Please replace the paragraph at page 83, line 25 to page 84, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Following step S211, the routine proceeds to ~~step~~ following step S212 where the service offer service 31 determines whether or not the session has been acquired from the service management service 11. If it is determined by the service offer service 31 that the session has been acquired from the service management service 11 (YES in step S212), the routine proceeds to step S213. On the other hand, if it is determined that the session has not been acquired from the service management service 11 (NO in step S212), it is determined that the session ID is not correct, and the process is ended. In step S213, the service offer service 31 acquires from the document accumulation service 82 the accumulated document designated by the accumulated document acquisition request received in step S210 by using the session acquired in step S212.

Please replace the paragraph at page 84, line 16 to page 85, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Following step S213, the routine proceeds to step S214 where the service offer service 31 returns the session acquired in step S212 to the service management service 11. Following step S214, the routine proceeds to step 215 where the service offer service 31 produces an accumulated document acquisition response as shown in FIG. 31 of the first embodiment containing the ~~accumulates~~ accumulated document acquired in step S213. Following step S215, the routine proceeds to step S216 where the service offer service 31 sends the accumulated document acquisition response produced in step S213 to the service use service 21.

Please replace the paragraph at page 88, lines 4-5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

As shown in FIG. 50, in the eighth embodiment, there are ~~[[tow]]~~ two service use services ~~[[21]]~~ 21₁ 21₂.

Please replace the paragraph at page 93, line 17 to page 94, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Following step S244, the routine proceeds to step S245 where the service use license management section 72 sends the service use license 15 acquired in step S244 to the session management section 81. Following step S245, the routine proceeds to step S246 where the service use license management section 72 ~~determined~~ determines whether or not the service use license 15, which was sent to the session management section 81 in step S245, has been returned from the session management section 81. If it is determined by the service use license management section 72 that the service use license 15 has been returned (YES in step S246), the process is ended. On the other hand, if it is determined that the service use license 15 has not been returned (NO in step S246), the process of step S246 is repeated.

Please replace the paragraph at page 94, lines 12-17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The present application is ~~[[base]]~~ based on Japanese priority applications No. 2002-331210 filed November 14, 2002, No. 2002-331211 filed November 14, 2002, No. 2003-375267 filed November 5, 2003 and No. 2003-375268 filed November 5, 2003, the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.